



Padre Island National Seashore
SandDollar



Friday, April 16, 2004

Superintendent

REPRISE.....

I would like to remind all PAIS employees and park VIP's that there is still time to submit your entry in the park "signature" photo contest. If you are one those talented photographers or artists that would be interested in having your work become a park signature photo or painting, I encourage you to participate. If you submit your work (up to three pieces) by April 26th, squad will review on Tuesday the 27th. A reminder that just to make things a little more fun, the winner will receive a very nice prize.

Do you think this new SandDollar time schedule is an improvement? I am interested in hearing from you. I want to be sure we enhance communication collectively whenever we can. In that regard, I would remind everyone of the employee "suggestion box" here at the seashore. Anyone can leave a suggestion in the box at headquarters, visitor center, or via lotus notes to Marilyn. Regardless of how it comes forward, suggestions will be considered at squad.

Thank you for all that you are doing for this fantastic park.

Colin

Colin's schedule:

Friday, 4/16

– In the Park

Monday, 4/19

– In the Park

Tuesday, 4/20

– In the Park; Squad Meeting, 8:30 am

Wed., 4/21

– In the Park

Thurs., 4/22

– In the Park

Safety Notes--

Your contributions are greatly appreciated for the SandDollar and the safety bulletin board. Please send safety contributions to Pat.

Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe.

Make it a safe day.

Administration

Leave Share Recipients - Intermountain Region

UPDATE: April 14, 2004

Lori Hedgepeth, Harry Little and Lyndon Driftwood have been removed from the list. They wish to thank everyone who generously donated leave to them. They are extremely grateful for the NPS family.

Chon Ascencion Morales' family also appreciated leave that was donated before his passing away.

Please Note: Gene Trujillo, Dianne White, Brace Hayden and Katherine Winkler have been added to the Leave Share List.

This is just a reminder for any employee who wishes to donate leave. Employees who have exhausted all their annual and sick leave and who are eligible under the leave share program to receive donations are listed at the end of this SandDollar.

TSP Open Season Has Started! The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) open season began April 15 and will end June 30, 2004. During the open season, you may begin contributing to the TSP or change the amount of your TSP contributions. During this open season, employees covered by FERS may elect to contribute to the TSP up to 14% of the basic pay they earn each pay period; employees covered by CSRS

may elect to contribute up to 9% of the basic pay they earn each pay period.

TEL Courses

Description of courses can be found at www.telmps.net

Apr 19 Retirement Planning for New Employees
Apr 20 IDP Module 210 - Prepare and Present an effective
conducted Activity
Apr 26 NPS Recreation & Preservation Programs

The trailer will be used for TEL training on Apr 26.

UPCOMING TEL EVENTS:

DATE	DAY	BROADCAST	TIME
11-May	Tuesday	The Interpretive Analysis Model for Supervisors	12:00-4:00pm
12-May	Wednesday	attendance is required for both sessions to receive credit	
13-May	Thursday	DOI Annual Ethics	?
17-May	Monday	Retirement Planning for New Employees	2:00-4:00pm
20-May	Thursday	Managing Workers Compensation Cases - Part 2	?
25-May	Tuesday	Preparing & Presenting an Effective Interpretive Talk	12:00-4:00pm
26-May	Wednesday	Presentation Techniques	12:00-4:00pm
27-May	Thursday	Heat Loss Prevention	?
3-Jun	Thursday	The Interpretive Analysis Model	12:00-4:00pm
8-Jun	Tuesday	Interpretive Techniques/Create Opportunities for Connection	12:00-4:00pm
10-Jun	Thursday	Administrative Grievances-What You Don't Know Could Hurt You	2:00-4:30pm
15-Jun	Tuesday	Informal Interpretation	12:00-4:00pm
16-Jun	Wednesday	The Interpretive Process Model	12:00-4:00pm
22-Jun	Tuesday	Partnership Agreements	?
13-Jul	Tuesday	Grant Proposals for External Funding	?
19-Jul	Monday	NPS Recreation & Preservation Programs	1:30-3:30pm
10-Aug	Tuesday	Dealing with Misconduct & Progressive Discipline	10:00-12:00pm
10-Aug	Tuesday	Resolving Performance Issues	2:00-4:00pm
26-Aug	Thursday	Retirement Planning for New Employees	2:00-4:00pm

Facility Management

Luis will be traveling to Denver on May 3rd through the 7th to attend further FMSS training.

Connie Gonzalez's last day of work is Tuesday, April 20.

The second vault toilet tank is being installed at BIB.

The sprinkler system is being installed in the Headquarters building.

GOODBYE, ADIOS, CIAO, AU REVOIR, AUF WEIDERSEHEN...

AmeriCorps*NCCC would like to thank everyone here at PINS for their support over the last few weeks. We had planned on expressing our affections for the island and the staff with a freshly written Sharpstone original, however Francis' guitar has broken and our voices are wary from spring break. So instead, we will extend our thank yous in a less vocal, yet entirely heartfelt way.

We would all like to thank the maintenance staff here on Padre for accommodating us in their building. A special thank you to David Poe for never bringing in that bullhorn at 5:00 a.m., as well as Glenda for her constant support. Thank you to research management for involving us with your numerous field projects. We were always ready to jump at the chance to wade through wetlands that rendered thigh high waders useless. ATV and turtle training were an all-time high for our team this past week. Thanks to Cynthia and the turtle staff for making our dreams come true. The Visitor's center has been another haven for our team here on Padre. We have benefited from, and immensely enjoyed the time that Buzz and the rest of the staff took out of their schedules to educate us about the island and the NPS as a whole.

Thank yous go out from the team to everyone that made us feel a part of the family here on Padre Island. Hopefully the team will be able to return to Padre for the release of some of the hatchlings next month. Until then,

thank you and goodbye from AmeriCorps Earth Five.

Interpretation

Just a reminder that the Spring Adopt-a-beach will be held on April 24. Phil still needs volunteers to work the registration desk. If anyone is interested, please contact him.

Protection

All employees are reminded to lock the headquarters gate if they are driving out of the parking lot after normal working hours. The gate has been left open several times recently. Rangers and/or dispatch will lock the gate at the end of their shift each day per established protocol. After dispatch goes off the air everyone entering or leaving the vehicle compound please remember to close the gate behind them.

Also recently we had Safeguard Alarm call out a ranger to respond to an alarm at headquarters that was not deactivated in the morning. All supervisors are requested to remind their employees and volunteers for the need to quickly turn off the alarm if they are the first to enter a building in the morning.

Clarissa Flores and Bruce Eagles will start work as seasonal protection rangers April 18.

The division is currently working on a Special Use Permit for the Travel Channel's, "Road Trip." This is a new series that will feature interesting stops that can be found on road trips around the country. Padre Island National Seashore has been selected as a place to visit when in the Corpus Christi area. Filming will take place in the park on April 22nd but at this time we do not know when the episode will air.

A message from Dispatch: Whenever explosive devices are found (phosphorus markers, flares, ordnance, etc) DO NOT TOUCH! Even when they look spent/burned out, residue can reignite if they're handled. Mark it so it can be easily found by a ranger in case you aren't available for directions. Call dispatch with exact location and description.

The park's first prescribed has been rescheduled to the first week in May. The Novillo Prescribed Fire will be 460 acres and serve to reduce fuel loading around the Novillo Line Camp as well as restore the natural role of fire back into the Padre Island landscape. All red carded firefighters in the park are invited to attend.

Resources Management

Projects:

- Darrell will be in Lafayette attending the I&M Conceptual Model meeting Tuesday through Thursday, April 20-22. He will be back in the office on Friday, April 23. Arlene will be acting.
- We have hired two new Biotechs, Larissa Bright and Katie Key who will start April 18. These are 60 day appointments.
- Spring mist-netting has had a great start. Dr. Chaney, professor emeritus for A&M Kingsville has been assisting us with this project. We have banded 86 birds of 28 species. Interesting captures are the Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Palm Warbler. We will be mist-netting through May.
- Steve Liptay, National Audubon Society, has recorded 16 nests of Snowy and Wilson's Plovers. All nests have eggs. He is currently surveying the washover basins between the 30 and 50 mile markers.
- Katie will be sampling the washover basin at the 46-MM every other Wednesday. Anyone interested in helping please contact Katie.
- Last Friday Katie and Gene Blacklock counted 800 white pelicans on Pelican Island. This is more than recorded last year. Since it is still early in the season, there may be more birds coming. Darrell and Katie will be on the boat this Friday and will do another count of the island.
- Wednesday Darrell and Nancy's son Brian had a medium grade anaphylactic reaction due to an allergy caused by creamed spinach.

He is doing great and enjoying being a 7 month old. He now has a good reason not to eat spinach!

Oil and Gas

- Arlene has been assisting Big Thicket with an Environmental Assessment for their Oil and Gas Program.
- Oil & Gas operations are continuing in the park. There have been delays due to environmental conditions. The road should be completed in 10 days and there will be 45 days of drilling after the road is completed.

Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery

As of 1:00 pm on Thursday April 15, no additional Kemp's ridley nests had been found on the Texas coast. The first nest of the year was found on Galveston Island on April 5. With the high winds predicted for the next few days and the warming temperatures, it should not be long before nests are found at the park. Staff and volunteers are continuing patrols and are working hard to see who will be the first one to find a nest here this year!

Strandings of small sea turtles washed ashore in the seaweed have tapered off during the last few days.

Rachael will run in the Boston Marathon on Monday April 19. We wish her good luck and know that she will do wonderfully. She will also run with the park's team during the Beach to Bay race in May.

LEAVE SHARE LIST

GENE TRUJILLO, Lead Masonry Worker, Mesa Verde National Park, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share Program. Gene has a serious medical condition. Gene will appreciate any donations of leave. If you would like to donate annual leave to Gene, please contact Laura Lenihan at 970-529-5078 or fax a completes OPM 630-A to 970-529-5059.

CAROL GEISTWEIDT, Budget Analyst at Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share

Program. Carol had to have additional major surgery. A severe infection developed in the wound which required a ten day re-hospitalization. She has exhausted all of her own leave and would appreciate any donations. If you would like to donate annual leave to Carol, please contact Debbie Gibson at 830-868-7128, ext 267, or fax a completed OF-630-A to 830-868-7863.

DOUGLAS FAGG, Engineering Equipment Operator at Big Bend National Park, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share Program. Doug required surgery to remove an obstruction to his left kidney. Following the initial surgery he developed complications which has required additional surgeries and a longer than anticipated convalescent period. If you would like to donate annual leave to Doug, please contact Brian Shugart at 432-477-1122 or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 432-477-1175.

DIANNE WHITE, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share Program. Dianne had hip replacement surgery due to arthritis on January 26, 2004. She has returned to work part-time, but is in need of donated hours to cover her sick leave and doctor visits. Dianne will appreciate any donations of leave. If you would like to donate annual leave to Dianne, please contact Kim McMahon at 505-885-8884, ext. 23, or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 505-885-4557.

BRACE HAYDEN, Natural Resource Management Specialist at Glacier National Park, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share Program. Brace is undergoing treatment for multiple myeloma. He has undergone a stem cell transplant, and continued absence from work is anticipated. He has exhausted his leave balances, and is in need of donated leave. If you would like to donate annual leave to Brace, please contact Mary Lou Fitzpatrick at 406-888-7876 or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 406-888-7869.

KATHERINE L. WINKLER, Information Coordinator, for the Contracts & Property Team in Washington, D.C., has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share Program. Katherine is currently undergoing aggressive treatment for Stage IV cancer. She has exhausted all of her leave and is in need of donations. If you would like to donate annual leave to Katherine, please contact Kim Uhler at 303-969-2770, or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 303-969-2546.

VICKI HATTER, Office Automation Clerk in the Interpretation Division at Grand Canyon National Park, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share Program. Vicki has exhausted her accrued leave for prenatal care and is expected to be out of work for approximately 6-12 weeks after the birth of her daughter. If you would like to donate annual leave to Vicki, please contact Barb Walker at 928-638-7723 or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 928-638-7722.

GEORGE RENSLOW, Maintenance Worker at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave

Share Program. George has been diagnosed with lung cancer. His doctor recommends chemotherapy every three weeks for the next six months. There may be radiation after that. Mr. Renslow will have to drive from Ajo to Phoenix (130 miles one way) to receive his treatments and will probably have to stay over after treatment. There is no known or estimated return to work. He has exhausted all his sick and annual leave and would appreciate any donations. If you would like to donate annual leave to George, please contact Deb Patton at 520-387-6849 ext. 7505 or Mary Martinez at 520-387-6849 ext. 7501 or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 520-387-7144.

PETER GALINDO, Mechanical Engineer in the Maintenance Division at Yellowstone National Park, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share Program. Peter has been diagnosed with colon cancer, which required surgery and will need a of combination chemotherapy and radiation treatments for the next seven months. If you would like to donate annual leave to Peter, please contact Bette Cates at 307-344-2051 or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 307-344-2046.

MELODY RICHARDS, Budget Technician at Bryce Canyon National Park, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary leave Share Program. Melody has been diagnosed with Fibromyalgia and is experiencing severe muscle pain associated with the disease that prevents her from working a full-time schedule. Her condition requires frequent visits to the doctor and therapy. If you would like to donate annual leave to Melody, please contact Randi Miller at 435-834-4301 or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 435-834-4102.

DIANA WIGGAM, Park Ranger at the Intermountain Regional Office, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share Program. Diana has had a setback in her continuing recovery of a previous medical condition. If you would like to donate annual leave to Diana, please contact Audrey Wilvert at 303-969-2519 or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 303-969-2593.

SHELLY THOMPSON, Utilities Administrative Assistant at Grand Canyon National Park, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share Program. Shelly continues to have bad days as a result of her surgery last October and is still in need of leave donations. If you would like to donate annual leave to Shelly, please contact Barb Walker at 928-638-7723 or Tammy Ice at 928-638-7729 or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 928-638-7722.

KATIE KEIL, Program Assistant for Visitor and Resource Protection at Grand Canyon National Park, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share Program. Katie and husband Stuart, Engineering Equipment Operator at Grand Canyon National Park, recently welcomed a new baby boy in November 2002, Jason Stuart Keil. Jason was born with serious medical problems that will require close observation at home and frequent trips to Flagstaff until Jason's condition has been stabilized. Jason is still in need of frequent trips to Flagstaff for medical care and his condition requires Katie to be at home most of the day. If you would like to donate

annual leave to Katie, please contact Barb Walker at 928-638-7723 or Tammy Ice at 928-638-7729 or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 928-638-7722.

REX TILOUSI, Indian Cultural Demonstrator at Grand Canyon National Park, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share Program. Rex continues to provide care for his wife because of complications due to her diabetes and Rex is still in need of leave donations. If you would like to donate annual leave to Rex, please contact Barb Walker at 928-638-7723 or Tammy Ice at 928-638-7729 or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 928-638-7722.

JEROME L. MARTINEZ, Lead Forestry Technician at Bandelier National Monument, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share Program. Jerome has been diagnosed with Mixed Connective Tissue Disease (MCTD), which is an auto immune disorder-cousin of Lupus that attacks multiple types of connective tissue. This condition requires long-term medical surveillance, lab work, chronic medical therapy and frequent visits to the doctor. The prognosis is to have the MCTD fairly well controlled. If you would like to donate annual leave to Jerome, please contact Roy Herrera at 505-672-3861 ext. 506 or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 505-672-9607.

REBECCA ERVIN, Motor Vehicle Operator at Guadalupe Mountains National Park, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share Program. She had open heart surgery on December 3, 2002. Rebecca has returned to work, but is still in need of donated hours to cover her advance sick leave and doctor visits. Rebecca will appreciate any donations of leave. If you would like to donate annual leave to Dianne, please contact Kim McMahon at 505-885-8884, ext. 23, or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 505-885-4557.

RICHARD UPSHAW, SR., Maintenance Worker at Grand Canyon National Park, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share Program. Richard has ongoing respiratory problems that require repeated trips to the clinic. Since Grand Canyon is in a remote area, the clinic visits take the entire day. If you would like to donate annual leave to Richard, please contact Barb Walker at 928-638-7723 or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 928-638-7722.

ROBERT CRISLIP, Ranger Activities Clerk at Chamizal National Memorial, has been approved as a Leave Share Recipient under the Voluntary Leave Share Program. Robert is recovering from kidney removal surgery because of cancer, and is undergoing chemotherapy treatments. If you would like to donate annual leave to Robert, please contact Tammie Renicker at 915-532-7273 ext.109 or fax a completed OPM 630-A to 915-532-7240.

Please Note: Even one hour of annual leave from eight different people would give an employee a day of pay. Thanks for your consideration.

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